

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel original claims 1-10 and add new claims 1-11 as follows:

1. (New) A guiding grid of variable geometry comprising:

a housing (2);

a plurality of guiding vanes (7) arranged in said housing (2) in angular distances around a central axis (R) in an axially extending vane space of a predetermined axial distance, each vane (7) being pivotal about an associated pivoting axis (8) in relation to said central axis (R) to form a nozzle of variable cross-section between each pair of adjacent vanes (7);

a generally annular nozzle ring (6) for supporting said vanes (7) for pivoting said vanes about their respective said pivot axis (8), said nozzle ring (6) forming a first axial limitation of said vane space;

a pivotable unison ring (5) around said central axis (R) relative to said nozzle ring (6), said unison ring (5) being connected to said vanes (7) in order to pivot said vanes (7) in relation to said central axis (R) when said unison ring (5) is pivoted;

a disk (29) with a central opening (53) fixed to said housing and opposite said nozzle ring (6) in an axial distance corresponding to said predetermined axial distance relative to the central axis (R) to form a second axial limitation of said vane space, wherein the central opening (53) or a central outlet pipe (10) of the turbine housing (2) is insertable into a sleeve (45) such that the sleeve

(45) is insertable into said central opening (53) for fixing the guiding grid in the turbine housing (2) inclusive of the guiding grid in its central outlet (10).

2. (New) The guiding grid according to claim 1, wherein said central opening (53) engages at least one driver flange (46), which is provided in the central outlet opening (10) of said housing.

3. (New) The guiding grid according to claim 2, wherein said driver flange (46) comprises a radially extending flange which engages said disk at the side of said vane space.

4. (New) The guiding grid according to claim 1, wherein said disk comprises at least one recess for receiving and engaging at least one driver flange (46).

5. (New) The guiding grid according to claim 2, wherein said at least one follower (46) closes off the surface of the disk (29).

6. (New) The guiding grid according to claim 5, wherein said disk (29) comprise at least one recess for receiving and engaging said at least one driver flange (46).

7. (New) The guiding grid according to claim 6, wherein said recess has an axial dimension to allow said driver flange (46) to be aligned with said one surface of said disk which faces said nozzle ring (6).

8. (New) The guiding grid according to claim 1, wherein said housing (2) comprises a wall extending substantially perpendicular to said central axis (R), said wall being substantially parallel to said disk, the guiding grid further comprising fastening means for interconnecting said wall and said disk.

9. (New) A turbocharger comprising:
a shaft extending along a central axis (R);
a turbine wheel mounted on said shaft;
a turbine housing (2) for housing said turbine wheel in a turbine space of said turbine housing including:
a peripheral supply channel for allowing exhaust gas to enter said turbine space and to drive said turbine wheel,
a central discharge pipe (10) which extends along said central axis (R) and forms an opening of said turbine space, and
a wall surrounding said opening;
a bearing housing (4) releasably attached to said turbine housing for supporting said shaft;
a guiding grid surrounding said turbine space to guide said exhaust gas towards said turbine wheel, said guiding grid including:
a plurality of guiding vanes (7) arranged in said turbine housing in angular distances around said central axis (R) in an axially extending vane space of a predetermined axial distance, each vane (7) being pivotal about an associated pivoting axis in relation to said

central axis (R) to form a nozzle of variable cross-section between each pair of adjacent vanes (7);

a generally annular nozzle ring (6) for supporting said vanes (7) around said central axis (R), said nozzle ring (6) forming a first axial limitation of said vane space;

a pivotable unison ring (5) around said central axis (R) relative to said nozzle ring (6), said unison ring (5) being connected to said vanes (7) in order to pivot them when being displaced to adjust their respective angular position in relation to said central axis (R);

a fixing means fixed to said housing (2) and facing said nozzle ring (6) in an axial distance corresponding to said predetermined axial distance to form a second axial limitation of said vane space, said fixing means forming a central opening (53);

a sleeve inserted into said central opening (53) and having fixing means for determining the axial position relative to the housing (2); and

a plug connection for interconnecting said wall of said turbine housing and said guiding grid, thus defining the angular position in peripheral direction of said guiding grid relative to said housing (2), while said fixing means define the axial position of said guiding grid.

10. (New) The turbocharger according to claim 9, wherein said plug connection comprises at least one hole in said fixing means for receiving a pin member for defining the angular position in peripheral direction of said guiding grid relative to said housing (2).

U.S. Application No.:
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Attorney Docket: DKT02118

11. (New) The turbocharger according to claim 10, wherein said fixing means comprises a disk arranged parallel to said nozzle ring (6) being interconnected to said nozzle ring (6).